

We look at the field of solar, for example. We have over 300,000 people working in the solar energy field, actually more than work in the coal fields now. Some of those solar companies are in districts that I represent. This is a new industry. Renewables now comprise 10 percent of all the energy that the country produces, and this has been a major accomplishment in just the last few decades.

A lot of photovoltaic research goes back to the 1980s. We are now looking at wind energy, the fastest growing job sector in America. It is really for wind technicians.

I thank the members of our committee on both sides of the aisle for appreciating the opportunity to grow this massive industry, including with investments such as LEEDCo in the State of Ohio; capturing the Saudi Arabia of wind, which is Lake Erie's complement.

So we feel a sense of accomplishment tonight as we bring this bill to the floor and we look at the horizons ahead. We know that we have to deal with the other body, we have to compromise out any of our differences, but I have a hunch that we are going to be able to do that very well.

I thank all those who may be listening this evening, particularly those who are working in our National Labs, the finest labs in the world that are inventing the future from coast to coast. Over a dozen and a half of those labs have America's best scientists working on not just energy research, but derivative spinoffs in the commercial sector that eventually benefit the entire country.

As I mentioned, the natural gas discovery that has really been responsible for leading us toward energy independence was made possible by the fracking technology developed over many years at the U.S. Department of Energy. So as you look at gas prices going down at the pump and you look at the competition in the energy industry, we have a lot of people, many unsung heroes across our country in these labs who work tirelessly on behalf of the American people. Some are retired and some are still in place, but we owe them a deep debt of gratitude for serving the American people so nobly.

We are going to have several other amendments that come before us tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman if he wishes to make a statement.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman. It is wonderful to have someone who can talk with some intelligence about what we are doing here, and keep the attention of the body as we are waiting for Members to come to the floor.

Ms. KAPTUR. I think it is fair to say, Mr. Chairman, that you do such a fine job and move the bill along that people were anticipating their amendments would come up later in the evening. But, as usual, this is not just

an energy efficient committee, but a very efficient committee.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker Pro Tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) having assumed the chair, Mr. GALLAGHER, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT NO. 32 AND AMENDMENT NO. 35 PRINTED IN HOUSE REPORT 115-259 OUT OF SEQUENCE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendment No. 32 and amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 115-259, may be offered out of sequence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3219.

Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GALLAGHER) kindly resume the chair.

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#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, with Mr. GALLAGHER (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. MITCHELL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in House Report 115-259.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 273, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$18,100,000)".

Page 273, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$476,400)".

Page 282, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,900,000)".

Page 296, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$28,169,300)".

Page 326, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$52,645,700)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 473, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my fiscally responsible amendment that is one step in securing America's future.

My amendment is a simple 10 percent cut to administrative expenses of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. These savings would be used to reduce the deficit.

Our national debt stands at \$20 trillion, and growing. Our unfunded liabilities add another \$100 trillion to \$200 trillion to the Federal debt, and that is only a guess. Our deficit last year was over \$500 billion. That is not sustainable. It jeopardizes our future and must be taken seriously. Paying lip service to the problem will not solve it. Talk is cheap. We must now be responsible, before it is too late.

I come from the world of private business and know the importance of having our fiscal house in order. I also know that being fiscally responsible starts with small steps, which, when added together, make a big impact.

Early in my career, I worked at Chrysler at the time when Lee Iacocca was CEO and went through the first loan guarantee. His famous fiscal savvy and focus helped save Chrysler, which was destined for bankruptcy. If not for Iacocca taking strong but necessary measures, a great Michigan company would have been lost.

Lee Iacocca understood that fiscal responsibility starts on a small scale. He once said if he had a manager who couldn't cut administrative costs by 10 percent, he needed a new manager.

Mr. Chair, that is what I propose today, a 10 percent cut to administrative costs of government agencies, which is a small step that, when combined with others like it, could yield back results and big savings for taxpayers. Moreover, these cuts would restrain an overactive government bureaucracy.

The Republican-led Congress has worked hard to undo years of copious overregulation, but another solution is to have fewer regulators and fewer bureaucrats passing on regulations that make it hard for businesses to survive and taxpayers to live their lives.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to choose fiscal responsibility, choose a secure American future, make a modest cut in the administrations costs of